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File: USPT

Nov 30, 2004

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6826597 B1

TITLE: Providing clients with services that retrieve data from data sources that do not necessarily support the format required by the clients

Abstract Text (1):

A method and system for allowing clients to retrieve data from data sources that do not necessarily support the same protocols and formats as the clients. The clients issue service requests. A pre-processor responds to the requests by generating XML-structured request objects with unresolved links to the data sources that have information required by the clients. An XML processor resolves the links by issuing requests through one or more gateways. The gateways convert the responses received from the data sources into XML, which the XML processor uses to create XML composite response documents. A post-processor filters the XML response documents, and applies XSL stylesheets to transform the XML composite response documents into client-specific responses that conform to the format required by the clients. The client-specific responses are then sent to the clients.

Application Filing Date (1):

19991206

Brief Summary Text (7):

Another trend is to expand Internet access to devices other than conventional computer systems. For example, wireless phones have been developed that include embedded web browsers. Due to size and cost constraints, the "micro browsers" contained in these devices have very limited functionality relative to the browsers that have been developed for full-fledged computer systems. However, devices with embedded micro browsers are usable in circumstances under which using a conventional computer system is impractical. In addition to having an embedded micro browser, certain wireless phones support a two-way paging protocol known as Short Message Stimulator (SMS). Using SMS, an SMS-enabled phone may send a text message to another SMS-enabled phone.

Brief Summary Text (14):

A method and system are provided for allowing clients to retrieve data from data sources that do not necessarily support the same protocols and formats as the clients. According to one aspect of the invention, a pre-processor responds to the service requests of clients by generating request objects. In one embodiment, the request objects are XML-structured documents with unresolved links to the data sources that have information required by the clients. An XML processor resolves the links by issuing requests through one or more gateways. The gateways convert the responses received from the data sources into XML, which the XML processor uses to create XML composite response documents. A post-processor filters the XML response documents, and applies XSL stylesheets to transform the XML composite response documents into client-specific responses that conform to the format required by the clients. The client-specific responses are then sent to the clients.

Detailed Description Text (17):

Upon receiving an XML request document from XML preprocessor 240, XML processor 242

parses the XML request document. When the XML processor 242 encounters unresolved links within the XML request document, XML processor 242 resolves the links, typically by making calls through one or more XML gateways.

Detailed Description Text (20):

According to one embodiment, for each XML request, the XML processor 242 creates a single "composite" XML response document by replacing links in the XML request with the XML response documents received from the entities that correspond to the links. For example, assume that the XML request document initially included one link to the UPS package tracking web site and one link to the FedEx package tracking web site. In response to receiving the XML request document, XML processor 242 would resolve each of the links in the XML request document by sending requests to those web sites through XML gateway 234. Those web sites respond to the requests using HTTP responses that are converted by gateway 234 into XML response documents.

Detailed Description Text (38):

According to one embodiment, the metadata associated with a request is embedded by pre processor 240 in the XML request objects generated by pre-processor 240. As the XML request objects are passed from pre processor 240 to XML processor 242 to be transformed into composite XML responses, the metadata is included. Similarly, the metadata is included as the composite XML responses are passed from the XML processor 242 to the filtering unit 246, and as the filtered XML responses are passed to the XSL engine 248.

CLAIMS:

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of embedding within said request object one or more filtering criteria, and filtering data from said composite response document based on said filtering criteria prior to transforming said composite response document.

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